VI

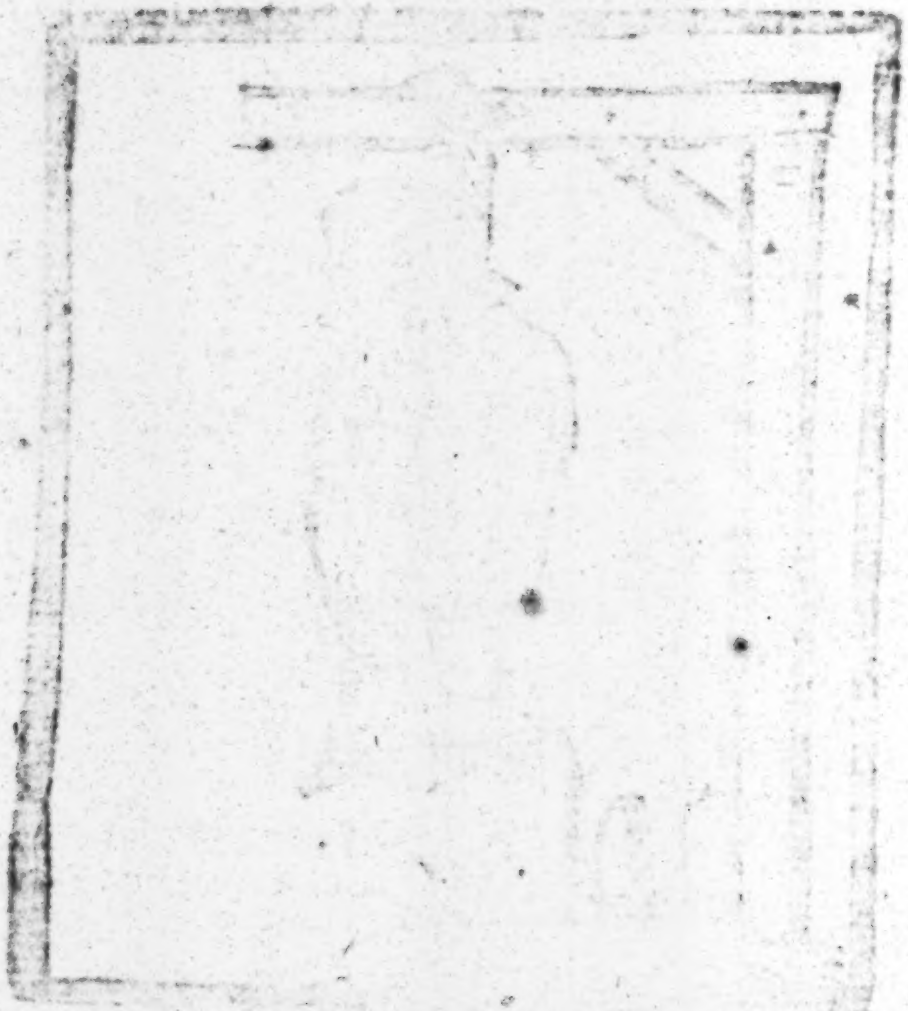
THE MURTHERER Turned True Penitent;

Or, An Account of the Wicked and Notorious Life of

Tho. Savage.

Licensed according to Order.

Printed for *P. Brooksby* in *Pye-corner.*



THE MURTHERER TURNED True PENITENT; OR,

An Account of the Wicked and Notorious Life of *Thomas Savage*, a young Man about Sixteen years of Age; who, at the Inſtigation of one *Hannah Blay*, a Leud Strumpet, killed his Fellow-ſervant by beating out her Brains with a Hammer and Robbed his Maſter. For which being apprehended, he became wonderfull penitent before and after his Condemnation; and more eſpecially at the Place of Execution: where being once cut down alive, he was hanged up the ſecond time.

ALSO

His Diſcourſe with the Miniſter that came to viſit him; his laſt Speech and Prayer at the Place of Execution; The Manner of his Behaviour *&c.* with a Repetition of his Crime; and a Warning to all young People, in Verſe.

Licenſed according to Order.

Printed for *P. Brooksby* at the *Golden Ball* in *Pye-corner.*

THE Murtherer TURNED True PENITENT, &c.

He that confesses and forsaketh his Sin shall shall find Mercy, Proverbs. 28. 13.

THomas *Savage*, the Person whose wicked Life and penitent Death occasioned the Writing of this Book; was born of honest and Industrious Parents, who notwithstanding indulged him too much in his youthfull Follies and Vanity: The place of his Birth was St. *Giles* in the Fields, in the County of *Middlesex*, where growing up to a fit maturity,

he was put Apprentice to one Mr. *Collins* a Vintner, at the Ship Tavern in *Ratcliff* in the County aforesaid; and although a strict hand was had over him, yet being naturally accustomed to do Evil, as the Prophet expresses it, he became altogether a Stranger to that which was good, taking a pride to break the Sabbath, and Scoffing at those who wou'd give themselves so much leasure as to hear a Sermon: but that which contributed most to his Ruine, was that falling into the Company of a lewd young Man, he carried him to the House of one *Hannah Blay*, a notorious Strumpet, who kept a Baudy-house not far from the place where he lived; and not being able to satisfie her Cravings in Money, as being carefully kept short of that, he endeavoured to do it by purloyning his Masters Goods, carrying her at sundry times bottles of Wine: but she not thinking that sufficient, told him if he intended to be welcome at her House, he must find some way to bring money: to which he replyed, that he was not furnished with any of his own, neither could he come at any but what was his Masters, whom he had never wronged in that kind. But she not satisfied with this

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Anſwer, ſtill urged him to bring money; and the better to incourage him to Steal, ſhe told him that he ſhould take his Maſters Money and bring it to her and ſhe would receive it: to which he replyed, he cou'd no ways conveniently do it, ſeeing one or other of the Family was always at home; and if the Maſter was abroad the Maid-ſervant narrowly watch'd him. Whereupon, ſhe counſelled him to Murther the Maid-ſervant; ſaying, Hang her Jade, knock her o'th' head, and ſhe would receive the money when by that means he had got it. This ſhe often repeated and incouraged him to undertake; inſomuch that coming home and ſhe having pretty well ſtupified him or made him drunkiſh with burnt Brandy, he got in the back-way to ſhun the ſight of his Maſter; and it then being between the hours of Twelve and One of the Clock, he found the Maid at Dinner, who ſharply reproved him for his being unſeaſonable abroad, it being then the Sabbath-day; and reproached him with the Baudy-houſe he haunted, telling him it wou'd be his Ruin: At which, during his being at dinner, he ſeemed much angry and diſturbed, and from that time, the Devil ſtrongly (as he afterward

ward confeſſed) tempted him to commit the Murther, and he giving way to the Temptation, became as ſtudiouſly thoughtfull with what Inſtrument he ſhould do it, and at length concluded nothing more fit to execute his Bloody purpoſes than a Hammer that lay by in the Bar: this he took up and watched his opportunity till his Maſter and the reſt of the Family, the Maid and himſelf excepted, were gone to Church to hear the Evening Sermon, and ſeemed much pleaſed in handling the Inſtrument of Cruelty; knocking with it upon the Bellows, and uſed many other odd motions with it; for which the Maid reproved him, ſaying, *Surely the Boy is mad, Sirrah what do you make this noiſe for?* &c. little thinking that her fatal hour was at hand: whereupon going to the Dreſſer or Window, he layed him down and began again to knock, as if he had taken time to meditate on what he intended; but long he did it, e'er perceiving the Maids Face averſe to him, threw the Hammer with all his force, which hitting her on the head, ſhe fell down with a great ſcriek or out-cry; whereupon he came upon her and after ſome pauſe gave her ſo many mortal blows on the head that ſhe inſtantly

ſtantly dyed, at which he ſeemed to triumph that he had got the victory over her.

Having wickedly accompliſhed his bloody purpoſes, and removed her that would have hindred him from what he mainly aimed at, *viz.* Robbing his Maſter: away he goes to a Cubboard or Cloſet, and with the ſame Hammer broke open the Door, there he found a Bag of Mony, which he took; and throwing his Cloak over it went out at the back-door to acquaint her who firſt put the deſign in his head, with what he had done, who approved of it and would fain have had the mony, but he onely gave her half a Crown; and ſo leaving her houſe, with much diſcontent took his way towards *Greenwich*, and was ſo far by this time ſmitten with Remorſe, that in the Agony of horror for ſo great a Guilt, he ſat him down by the way, and cryed out, *Lord what have I done!* and then it was that the Senſe of his Sin made him wiſh he had never done it, yet in much diſturbance of Mind, forward he went, ever looking behind him as imagining any one that came after him, came to purſue and apprehend him. So much is the Fear and Terror of a Guilty Conſcience prevalent

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to afflict those that have contracted the Guilt.

By this time he got to *Greenwich*, and it being near night, he betook himself to a Lodging, the next morning for *Gravesend*; declaring as much to the People of the House: but the Hostess perceiving him very uneasie and restless in his mind, and further that he had a considerable Charge of mony about him unsealed, and himself but a Youth not exceeding sixteen years of Age, she began to suspect that he came not honestly by it; saying to some that were bystanders what she thought: and then applying her self to our Youth, she said, *Sweetheart, I fear you came not by this Money honestly, Yes indeed,* replyed he, *Mistriss I did, for I am carrying it down to* Gravesend *to my Master, who is a Wine-Cooper and lives upon* London-Bridge; *and if you please to send any one to my Mistriss, I will leave my Money with you:* which plausible Story without any alteration took so far that the Woman layed up the Money and sent a Note by some Persons who were going to *London*, to know if it were true, and he had liberty the mean while to go where he pleased; and thereupon he took his way towards *Woolwich* with

with an intent never to return for his mony: but the Rumour of the Murther and Robbery being noiſed abroad in *London*, and notice of what had happened at *Greenwich* being given, he was purſued and taken aſleep in an Ale-houſe in *Woolwich*; and being awaked and asked if he was the Perſon that murthered his Fellow-ſervant at *Ratcliff*, he anſwered yes; and further how he effected it and took the money, *&c.* and ſo was brought back to *Greenwich*, where he met his Maſter, to whom he likewiſe confeſſed it; but at firſt ſeemed not much afflicted, yet in the end burſt out into Floods of Tears, and greatly bewailed his Wickedneſs: and being from thence had before a Juſtice of Peace, who dwelt in *Ratcliff*, he there confeſſed all and was committed to *Newgate*. Where, during his Imprisonment, many Miniſters in Charity to the Eternal welfare of his precious and immortal Soul, came to viſit him, and give Spiritual Conſolation; to whom he having owned his Sin of Scarlet-dye, *viz.* the Murther, *&c.* they asked him what he thought would become of his precious Soul; telling him he had not only brought his Body to the Grave, but his Soul to Hell, without

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God's infinite Mercy, *&c.* upon which he expreſt an exceeding ſorrow, with Tears in his Eyes; ſaying, *Sir it cuts me to the very Heart, to think that I ſhould take away the Life of a Poor innocent Creature; and that this is not all, but for any thing I know, I have ſent her Soul to Hell: Oh! how can I think to appear before God's Bar, when ſhe ſhall ſtand before me and ſay, Lord, this Wretch took away my Life, and gave me not the leaſt ſpace that I might turn to thee,* &c.

Then was he exhorted ſeriouſly to conſider the lamentable condition he was in, and how he was in a manner upon the Eternity, and there wou'd be irreparably loſt and ſunk in everlaſting Flames if he dyed without an int'reſt in Chriſt, without laying hold by Faith upon his Merits for his Salvation, ſeeing God would accept of Sinners upon no other terms. And that as for himſelf, though he was but young in years yet he was old in Trangreſſion, offending againſt the Law of God and Man; for the Law of God ſays expreſly *Thou ſhalt not Kill*, and threaten even a temporal Puniſhment to thoſe that do it, *viz. Whoſoever ſheddeth man's Blood, by Man ſhall his Blood be ſhed*; and that now he was over-taken in the Snare, but

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that the punishment of a Temporal Death was by infinite degrees inferiour to that which is Eternal; into which, without God's great Mercy, he must fall: for when his soul was separated from his Body, it must immediately appear before the dread Tribunal of the Sin-revenging God, and there receive its final and irreversible Doom; bidding him seriously consider if he was cast out of the Presence of God, where only is joy and pleasures for evermore, what a sad thing it wou'd be for him to undergo the Torments of Eternal Death in Hell-fire! for who can dwell with the everlasting Burnings?

To this he answer'd, that although his sins were many and great, God of his infinite Mercy would yet have Mercy upon his Soul: Then was he urged by a hearty sincere and unfeigned Repentance, to try with all his power and might, to reconcile himself to God the Father in the Blood of his Son Jesus Christ, the onely Saviour and Mediator; by whom and in his merits we have access to the Throne of Grace: to which he replyed, he would try his utmost power and pray for the Divine assistance; yet complained of the hardness of his Heart, and

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the ſorrow he conceived, that he could not be more ſorrowfull for his Sin; deſiring their Prayers to God for him, that he would break his Stoney Heart, and give him a true ſenſe and feeling of the ſad and deplorable Eſtate wherein he was; for that he was ſenſible he ſtood condemned eternally by the Word of God, which expreſly ſays, *Rev.* 12. 8. *But the fearfull and unbelieving, and the Abominable and Murtherers, and Whoremongers, and Sorcerers, and Idolaters, and all Lyers ſhall have their part that burneth with fire and brimſtone, which is the ſecond Death*; and further, that in *Gal.* 5. 12. it is ſaid, *the Murtherer ſhall not inherit the Kingdom of God.* Then he wept bitterly, and much bewailed his miſ-ſpent time and mourned over his Tranſgreſſion; and cryed out in the anguiſh of his Soul, *What ſhall I do to be ſaved?* ſaying, *Behold I was ſhapen in Iniquity, and in Sin did my Mother conceive me:* and ſo great was his Agony and Afflictions, that thoſe who were his Viſitants, thought it convenient to eaſe the Labourings of his Soul, by laying before him Gods promiſes to penitent Sinners; and that there was no Sin too great for God's Mercy to pardon, and that Eternal Life was freely offered to thoſe that

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wou'd accept of Christ according to the Terms of the Gospel; and saith the Prophet *Isa.* 55. 7. *Let the Wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous Man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.* These and such like expressions calmed the Tempest in his Soul, and made him still inquisitive about the working out of his Salvation: and so long he struggled and wrestled by Prayer, that he found some glimmering of Joy in his Heart, which made him yet express more sorrow for his Sin: which made him cry out, *Oh my Soul, my Immortal Soul! I know not what will become of it to all Eternity; it grieves me at my very Heart that I have neglected as I have done, this great Work of my Salvation, now I see so much need of Christ and so much preciousness and excellency in him, that if the greatest King in the World should come and throw his Crown at my Foot, and tell me I shou'd injoy it and all Glory of it so many Millions of years, and shou'd have my Liberty, and should say, but it must be without Christ, I would sooner choose to dye this moment, and be wrack'd to ten thousand Deaths.* And thus he continued sometime in Prayer and at other times in hearing and conversing with

with ſuch Miniſters as came to viſit him, till the Seſſions came to be held; where, upon his Arraignment, he pleaded Guilty to the Murther and Robbery; confeſſing, with many tears and wringing his hands, that he, through the inticement of *Hannah Blay* and at the inſtigation of the Devil, had committed the Bloody Fact, which was ſuch a horror to his Conſcience, that he would not do it again for ten thouſand Worlds; and by his free Confeſſion and humble Carriage, moved the Beholders to pitty him; ſo that Sentence being paſſed upon him and divers others, he found ſo much favour that he had a longer time than the reſt, given him to Repent in, and Improve to the Advantage of his Soul.

After his Condemnation, being carried back to Priſon, divers Miniſters, as the cuſtome is, to thoſe poor condemned Wretches, came to viſit him, and found him in a floud of Tears, and amongſt other Expreſſions theſe broke from him, *viz. Lord, ſo far as I know my Heart, I repent that I ſhould offend ſo gracious and ſo merciful a God as thou art: Lord haſt thou not ſaid no Man can come to Thee except the Father draw him? Draw me, O Lord, and I ſhall run to thee; enable me to believe Lord, and I ſhall believe, nay I do believe that the Blood of Jeſus Chriſt was not ſhed in vain; did Chriſt dye for nothing?---*

no, he dyed to ſave Penitent and Believing wretches that flye from his Fathers Juſtice to his tender Mercies; Then taking one by the Hand, he ſhewed him his Coffin, ſaying, *This is the Ship in which I muſt launch out into Eternity*; and ſo continued in Prayers and Meditations, till the ſuppoſed day of his Execution; growing ſtronger and ſtronger in Faith, and ſenſibly feeling and perceiving the motions of the Holy Spirit, working upon his Heart, ſo that with an exalted Joy he now rather deſired to dye than live; and although his Coffin was carried down, the Cart waited, and he had ſtripped himſelf for that purpoſe, yet his Execution was deferred longer by reaſon the Sheriff of *Middleſex* had notice of the Warrants being come down; ſo that he continued in Priſon, without the leaſt expectation of a Pardon, till the *Wedneſday* following, the *Friday* and that night, the better to prepare him for Death. Divers Miniſters ſat up with him, and found him exceeding willing to dye; ſaying (upon his being asked whether he did not fear approaching Death) *My Heart is ſo drawn out after God that I freely leave this world to be with him; this world is nothing, the pleaſures of it are vanity, I deſire to dye becauſe I long to be with Chriſt; there I ſhall never Sin no more,*

there is no Sin but Joy; there I shall sing Hallelujahs and Praises to God. Being asked what promises he found to ground that Confidence upon, *&c.* he answered in the Words of the Scripture, *viz. Whosoever will let him come and drink of the Waters of Life freely, and he that confesseth and forsaketh his Sins shall find Mercy, and let the Wicked forsake his Way, and the Unrighteous Man his Thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy on him; and to our God, and he will abundantly pardon*: And here he seemed to be ravished with excess of Joy, often comforting his Spirits, *viz. I have lived abundantly but God will pardon abundantly*; and this a faithful Saying and worthy of all Acceptation, *that Christ came into the World to save Sinners, of whom I am chief.*

The day of his Execution being now come, he proceeded to undergo his Death with Joy and patience, and chearfully took his leave of his Friends, saying to a Minister that had all along attended him, *O, my Friend, we cannot tell what a glorious place Heaven is, but if once I get thither, and could drop down a Letter to you and tell you of the Glorious things I shall find there, how wou'd it rejoyce your Heart?* and to another he said, *I know God loveth me, and that I am going to the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Then

Then turning to the People, His *Speech* at the place of Execution was this.

Gentlemen,

HEre I am come to dye a curſed and Ignominious Death, and I moſt juſtly deſerve it, for I have Murthered a poor innocent Creature, and for ought I know, have not only murthered her Body, but if God had no more mercy on her Soul than I had of her Body, ſhe is undone to all Eternity; ſo if I deſerve not only Death from Men, but Damnation from God, I wou'd have you all that look upon me take warning by me; the firſt Sin I began with was Sabbath-breaking, whereby I got Acquaintance with bad Company; and ſo we went from the Ale-houſe to the Bawdy-houſe, where I was perſwaded to rob my Maſter, as alſo to murther my Fellow-ſervant, the poor innocent Creature for which I am come to this ſhameful end: I was drawn aſide, I ſay, by Ill Company, pray take heed of that, for it will not only bring your Bodies to the Grave, but your Souls to Hell: have a care of neglecting the Sabbath, it is that which hath not only brought my Body to the Grave, but my Soul in danger of eternal Torments, and try the ways of God, for the Lord be praiſed, I have found ſo much excellency and ſweetneſs in Gods ways, that I bleſs God, that I ever came in a Priſon; and now, though I am leaving the World, yet I know I ſhall go to a better place, for I have Repented

my self for all my Sins, not because I am to dye for them, but that I shou'd do that whereby I should deserve Hell ten thousand times over, and so dishonour God; now Lord have Mercy upon my Soul. The Speech ended, he proceeded to Prayer in this form, with much earnestness: *O most merciful and for ever-blessed Lord God, I beseech thee look down upon my poor immortal Soul, which now is taking it's flight into another World, which now is ready to appear before thy Bar; Lord I beseech thee, prepare me for it, and receive my Soul into the arms of thy Mercy; and though my Body dye, and I come to dye this shamefull Death, yet let my Soul live with thee for ever. Lord pardon all the horrid Sins I have committed, as Sabbath breaking, Lying, Swearing, Cursing, Uncleanness, and all the rest of my Sins that ever I have committed; Lord give me a new Heart and give me Faith, that I may lay hold and throw my self fully and wholly upon thee: Enable me, O Lord, give me saving Repentance that I may come to thy Bar, and thence be Received into Glory. Let me not be a Prey to Devils to all Eternity; let not my soul perish though my body dy'd; let me not be shut out from thy Presence; and let not all the Prayers and Tears, and Counsels and Instructions that have been made and shed on my behalf be in vain: Pity my Soul, Lord my immortal Soul; Lord it won'd be just with thee to*

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caſt me into everlaſting Burning: I have been a great Sinner, but Chriſt is a Saviour, and can ſave to the utmoſt all thoſe that come unto him, &c.

The Prayer being ended, and the Cap put over his Eyes, he ſaid, *Lord Jeſus Receive my Spirit, Lord one ſmile, good Lord one word of Comfort for Chriſt's ſake*, &c. In the midſt of which Expreſſions, which moved all hearts to melt & pity him, he was turned off; after which he ſtrugled for a while, heaving up his Body, which a young man, his Friend, obſerving, ſtruck him on the Breaſt to put him out of his pain; and then no motion appeared in him, ſo that having hung the uſual time, he was cut down as dead to all outward appearance, and carried into an adjacent Houſe to be Coffin'd up in order to his Interment; where being layed upon the Table, to the no ſmall wonder of his Friends, when they thought his Soul had been in Eternity, he began to ſtir and breathe and rattle in the throat; ſo that it evidently appeared that he was alive, which made them carefullly put him into a warm Bed, where he opened his Eyes and Mouth, and offered to ſpeak, but could not; his Teeth being faſt ſet in his head: but the matter not being carried privately enough, the Sheriff, within an hour after, had notice of it, and ſent the

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Officers to the Houſe to demand him, who carried him the ſecond time to the place of Execution, and hanged him up till he was quite Dead: then being again delivered to his Friends, he was carried to the Pariſh of St. *Mary Iſlington*, and their layed up in his Grave in expectation of a glorious Reſurrection.

As for *Hannah Blay*, ſhe was found guilty as Acceſſary to the Murther, and Executed ſome time after at *Ratcliff*.

The Dying Penitent's Dolefull Lamentation; *Or, a Recital of the Crime, &c. for which he ſuffered Death: and may be ſaid or ſung to the Tune of* The Young Man's Legacy, *or,* Sinner's Redemption, *&c.*

MY Crime to young and old I'll tell,
and take unto my ſelf the ſhame;
I lately did at *Ratcliff* dwell,
and *Thomas Savage* is my Name.

My Parents they took care for me,
and put me to a Genteel Trade;
A Vintner I was to be,
but in my place not long I ſtaid.

So ſeaſon'd in my Sin I was
that I regarded nothing more,
Than how I might ſtill bring to paſs,
what now do's make me grieve fullſore.

Bad

Bad Company I did frequent,
and in my Lewdneſs took a Pride;
The Sabbath-day I vainly ſpent,
nor could I then the Church abide.

At laſt from bad, I fell to worſe;
a Bawdy-houſe I often us'd:
I learnt likewiſe to Swear and Curſe,
nor to be Drunk did I refuſe.

But money wanting to ſupply
my Harlot, that did crave of me,
And did my coming there deny,
unleſs I wou'd more laviſh be.

She Counſell'd me to rob and Steal,
I told her 'twas not my Intent,
Nor cou'd I do it, wer't well,
the Maid wou'd my deſign prevent.

Who when Maſter was abroad,
kept Houſe and watch'd me narrowly;
She bid me do it then by fraud,
or elſe my hands in Blood to dye.

Her wicked Counſel then I took,
ſo ſoon do thoſe on Ruin run,
Who have the ways of God forſook,
and by that Counſell am undone.

The innocent ſhe bid me kill,
by Murther make to Theft my way;
And ſhe'd receive what I got ill,
nor did I fail for to obey.

Home almoſt doz'd and drunk I came;
though it upon the Sabbath was,
So little then I had of Shame,
and ſtudied to bring it to paſs.

Bad

A Hammer from the Bar I got,
and when the reſt to Church were gone
Upon us two the Doors faſt ſhut,
the Hammer by me fiercely thrown,

The Maid ſtruck down upon the Ground,
to whom I gave ſo many blows,
That there ſhe had her mortal Wound,
and Death, cold Death her Eyes did cloſe.

This done, I open broke the Door,
where I well knew the Money lay;
And leaving her dead on the floor,
I left the Houſe and went my way.

I told my Harlot of my Deed,
when ſhe the money crav'd of me:
But leaving her, I did proceed,
where I thought I might ſafer be.

To *Greenwich* then I did me hye,
but there ſuſpected I was ſtay'd,
And though at firſt I did deny,
I back again was ſoon convey'd.

And for the Murther I was ſent
unto a Priſon ſad and ſtrong,
Where I my Sins did much lament:
but there I had not tarried long,

But I was try'd, condemn'd, my Doom
was on a Gibbet I ſhou'd dye:
For Mercy there was little Room,
my Guilt to loud did Vengeance cry.

And now unto this place I'm brought,
a ſhamefull leave of all to take:
Yet God I hope forgives my fault,
and will not my poor Soul forſake.

FINIS.